



REMARKS

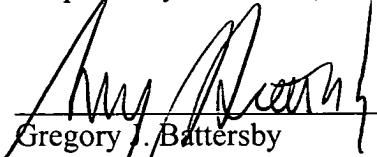
The Office Action mailed August 27, 2002 has been carefully considered. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 38-44. The Examiner has rejected claims 31-37 as being indefinite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Applicants have amended claims 31-36 to address the specific issues raised by the Examiner in the aforesaid Office Action. In view of these amendments, applicants submit that such claims now define the subject matter of the present invention with the specificity required by statute. It should be noted that Claim 37 was not amended (nor was it specifically objected to by the Examiner in the subject Office Action). Applicants submit that the aforementioned amendments to claims 31-36 are sufficient to overcome any objection that the Examiner might otherwise have to claim 37.

Applicants submit that these amended claims now patentably distinguish over all of the references relied upon by the Examiner, define the invention with the specificity required by statute, and are in condition for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are therefore requested. In the event that the Examiner should determine that the aforesaid Amendment does not place the case in condition for immediate allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to discuss what additional steps would be necessary to immediately place the case in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,


Gregory J. Battersby
Reg. No. 26,703
Attorney for Applicants
(203) 324-2828